

MAINE FIRE PROTECTION SERVICES COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

March 5, 2007

(approved as revised on April 2, 2007)

Chair Jeffrey Cammack called the Maine Fire Protection Services Commission to order at 1:03 pm in Room 427 of the State House, Augusta. Members present included Stephen Bunker, Chief Jeffrey Cammack, Representative Dean Cray, Chief Darrel Fournier, Gerry Gay, Ron Green, Geoffrey Maker, Alex McPhedran, Cameron Martin, Representative Benjamin Pratt, Vicki Schmidt, Charles Soltan and Susan Pinette (staff). Members excused included Representative Patricia Blanchette, Jay Bradshaw, Chief John Dean, Chief Kenneth Desmond, Charles Jacobs, Alan Johnston, Edward Johnston, Senator Richard Nass, Harty Norris, Senator Ethan Strimling and David Wacker. Guests attending the meeting included Representative Peter Rines of Wiscasset, President James Ortiz and Ed Marks of Southern Maine Community College, Chief John Woulfe of Rumford, Chief Barry Norris of Union, Chief Roy Woods of Caribou, Chief Charles Hammond of Windham, Chief Kevin Guimond of South Portland, Chief Fred LaMontagne of Portland and William Vickerson of the Maine State Federation of Firefighters.

The Fire Commission is pleased to welcome three new members. Senator Ethan Strimling of Cumberland replaces Senator Bruce Bryant, Representative Dean Cray of Palmyra replaces Representative Richard Brown and Cameron Martin, Interim Director of Maine Fire Training and Education, replaces David Niklaus.

A motion by Darrel Fournier, seconded by Jeff Maker, to accept the February 5, 2007 meeting minutes as revised by the following two changes:

- 1) On page 1, paragraph 1- Corrected to identify Richard Cyr as President of the Maine State Federation of Firefighters***
- 2) On page 4, paragraph 1- Corrected to read L.D. 59, not L.D.70***

The motion passed unanimously.

Committee Reports

The Spring Conference Committee updated the Fire Commission on the progress of the upcoming Blaine House Conference for Emergency First Responders to be held at the Bangor Civic Center/Auditorium on Monday, March 19th and Tuesday, March 20th. The committee noted an increase in vendors and that several fire departments would be displaying equipment and apparatus purchased through various grants. Some changes were made to accommodate the

larger vehicles from Bangor and Brunswick. The speakers' brochure is in its final draft, and although pre-registration numbers are down from 2006, the committee is optimistic of another successful conference.

The Training Facilities Committee reported on two meetings held on February 22nd in Bangor. The Fire Commission had instructed the original Training Facilities Task Force to meet with other interested parties regarding the next steps in the process of establishing a state training facility. Representatives from the Maine Fire Protection Services Commission, Maine Fire Chiefs Association (MFCA) and Southern Maine Community College (SMCC) met in the morning and the Task Force met in the afternoon. Discussions included what role SMCC and Maine Fire Training and Education (MFT&E) would have with a new state training facility and implementation of the recommendations of the Task Force Report. The committee provided a written summary of both meetings to the Fire Commission. In addition, several of the participants of the February 22nd meetings attended today's Fire Commission meeting. Many spoke of the importance of continuing the partnership between SMCC/MFTE and Maine's fire service and to move ahead with the Task Force's recommendations. Fire Commission members joined the discussion expressing the need to recognize the training differences among regions and departments and to strive to preserve both the traditional training methods (academic) and the "hands on" (technical) methods. Fire Commission members had many questions regarding funding issues; the Training Facilities Committee's membership, tasks and its previous work; the Maine Emergency Services Institute (MESI) board and its roles and responsibilities; the Fire Commission's authority and role regarding MESI; potential legislation; availability of Brunswick Naval Air Station (BNAS) property; and any connection with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and Homeland Security.

A motion by Jeff Cammack, seconded by Gerry Gay, to encourage the continued dialogue between Maine's fire service and Southern Maine Community College and Maine Fire Training and Education and to direct the Training Facilities Committee to move forward with the planning of the Maine Emergency Services Institute (MESI), the establishment of the MESI board and the development of a business plan as recommended in the Training Facilities Task Force Report (May 2006). The motion passed unanimously.

A motion by Darrel Fournier, seconded by Vicki Schmidt, to direct the Training Facilities Committee to periodically report their progress, findings and recommendations to the Maine Fire Protection Services Commission and submit a written report at the Fire Commission's October 1, 2007 meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

According to the Fire Commission's bylaws "*Elections of officers shall be held at the regularly scheduled meeting in April...*" The Elections Committee has unanimously agreed on a slate of officers for consideration by the Fire Commission at the April 2nd meeting. The Elections Committee recommendations are:

Chief Jeffrey Cammack-Chair
Senator Richard Nass- Vice Chair
Geoffrey Maker- Secretary
Chief John Dean- Treasurer

A motion by Gerry Gay, seconded by Darrel Fournier, that the Maine Fire Protection Services Commission accept the Elections Committee's proposed slate of officers and vote on the recommendations at the annual meeting on April 2, 2007. The motion passed unanimously.

The Best Practices Committee reports that they have identified potential "Best Practices" awards and hope to make presentations at the Blaine House Conference for Emergency First Responders in Bangor. The committee continues to encourage Fire Commission members to submit "Best Practices" nominations as they occur.

Legislation

Fire Commission members reviewed the following partial list of proposed bills dealing with fire service issues submitted in the first session of the 123rd Legislature.

L.D. 59 "*An Act to Restore Continuing Funding for the Maine Institute for Public Safety Innovation*"

L.D. 70 "*An Act to Require Cigarettes Sold in Maine to be Fire-safe*"

L.D. 239 "*An Act to Provide a Felony Penalty for Assault on a Firefighter*"

L.D 362 "*An Act to Effect the Seizure and Disposal of Contraband Fireworks*"

L.D. 499 "*An Act Making Unified Appropriations and Allocations for the Expenditures of State Government, General Fund and Other Funds, and Changing Certain Provisions of the Law Necessary to the Proper Operations of State Government for the Fiscal Years Ending June 30, 2008 and June 30, 2009*" (EMERGENCY)

L.D. 535 *“An Act to Create a Retired Firefighter Registration Plate”*

L.D. 547 *“An Act to Create Fairness in E-9-1-1 Funding”*

L.D. 576 *“Resolve, To Investigate Cellular Telephone Use and Driver Safety”*

L.D. 593 *“Resolve, To Establish a Second Public Safety Answering Point for Kennebec County”*

L.D. 676 *“An Act to Implement the Recommendations of the Task Force to Study Maine’s Homeland Security Needs”*

Fire Commission members also discussed several bills that did not appear on the list. Members discussed whether the Fire Commission wanted to comment on any proposed legislation. Members also discussed submitting bills this session on recruitment and retention, truss construction and residential sprinklers.

A motion by Darrel Fournier, seconded by Gerry Gay, to send a letter to the Transportation Committee supporting L.D. 496 “An Act to Exempt Emergency Vehicles from Tolls on the Maine Turnpike”.

The motion passes unanimously.

The Fire Commission plans to tour the New Hampshire Fire Academy this Spring. Final arrangements are expected by the May meeting.

With no further business to come before the Maine Fire Protection Services Commission, Chair Cammack adjourned the meeting at 2:45pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan M. Pinette (staff)

Meeting Schedule and Dates of Interest

<u>Monday, April 2nd</u>	FIRE CAUCUS	State House	12Noon
<u>Monday, April 2nd</u>	MEETING ++	State House	1:00pm
<u>Monday, May 7th</u>	FIRE CAUCUS	State House	12Noon
<u>Monday, May 7th</u>	MEETING	State House	1:00pm
<u>Monday, June 4th</u>	FIRE CAUCUS	State House	12Noon
<u>Monday, June 4th</u>	MEETING	State House	1:00pm
Monday, July 2 nd	MEETING	Florian Hall	1:00pm
Monday, August 6 th	MEETING	Florian Hall	1:00pm

To be scheduled:

Tour of the New Hampshire Fire Academy
Training Facilities Meeting

++ Annual Meeting- Election of Fire Commission Officers